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OLiver Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and the Dominions and Territories thereto belongi
To all Parſons, Miniſters, Lecturers, Vicars, and Curates. And alſo to all our Juſtices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffes, Bailiffes, Co
ſtables, Church-wardens, Collectors for the Poor, and Headboroughs; And to all other Officers, Miniſters and People, whatſoev
as well within Liberties as without, to whom theſe Preſents ſhall come greeting. Whereas the Miniſter, Church-wardens, and the r
of the Inhabitants of the Pariſh of *Edgbaſton*, in our County of *Warwick*, have made their humble Petition to us, thereby ſhewi
That whereas the Pariſh-Church of *Edgbaſton* aforeſaid, was heretofore a decent Structure, fit for celebrating the publick Worſhip a
Service of God, part of the ſaid Church was in the time of the late Warres burnt, and the reſidue thereof, with the Steeple and Bells
moliſhed and thrown down by the Appointment of Colonel *John Fox*, then Governour of the Garriſon thereto adjacent. And that the Inhabitants of
ſaid Pariſh, being all or the greateſt part of them Tenants at will, are utterly unable to re-edifie the ſame, (the Charge thereof (being computed) amount
unto eight hundred pounds and upwards) As by a Certificate of the Premiſſes, under the Hands and Seals of divers Juſtices of the Peace of our ſaid Cou
of *Warwick* hath appeared. And therefore the ſaid Petitioners have humbly beſought us, That we would be graciouſly pleaſed to grant unto them
Letters Pattents under our Great Seal of *England*, to enable them to collect and receive the Charity and Benevolence of well-diſpoſed People, for and
wards the rebuilding of their ſaid Church. Foraſmuch therefore as the ſaid Inhabitants by reaſon of their poverty, are not able to accompliſh the
building of their ſaid Church, without the acceſſion of the charitable aſſiſtance of others. And for that ever ſince the demoliſhing and burning of
ſaid Church, they have been deſtitute of a place to reſort unto for the publick Worſhip of God. And for that alſo, their ſaid humble ſuit unto us is of
great Concernment, in regard that they the ſaid Inhabitants are deſtitute of a fit and convenient place to aſſemble themſelves in, for the Worſhip a
Service of God, and for the good of their Soules, in their Attendance on Gods holy Ordinances, and in ſanctifying the Lords dayes; for which heave
purpoſes, that the publick Meetings of the ſaid Inhabitants may no longer be obſtructed, but be effectually revived, promoted and furthered, becauſe
Gracious God hath in his holy Word declared, that his love is in a more eſpecial manner towards the publick Aſſemblies of his people, then to their priv
Devotions, for therein it is recorded, that the Lord loveth the Gates of *Sion*, more then all the dwellings of *Jacob*; We therefore have thought fit to gr
unto the ſaid Inhabitants their ſaid humble ſuit, being well aſſured that all good people will be zealouſly affected towards the advancing of this ſo pio
Work, and readily extend their helping hands thereunto, by their liberal Contributions in that behalfe: Know ye therefore, that we of our Chriſt
Zeal and Compaſſion, have given and granted, and by theſe our Letters Pattents we do give and grant unto the ſaid Miniſter, Church-wardens, and
reſt of the Inhabitants of the ſaid Town and Pariſh of *Edgbaſton* aforeſid, and to their Deputy and Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers hereof, full power,
cence and authority, to ask, gather, receive, and take the Almes and charitable Benevolence of all good and well-diſpoſed people, inhabiting within
ſeveral Counties of *Warwick*, *Stafford*, *Cheſter*, *Worceſter*, *Northampton*, and *Hereford*, our Cities of *Coventry*, *Lichfield*, *Cheſter*, *Worceſter*, *Peterboro*
and *Hereford*. And in all other Cities, Towns Corporate, priviledged places, Pariſhes, Villages and Hamlets, within our ſaid Counties, and not e
where, for and towards the re-building of the ſaid Church, wherefore we will and command you, and every of you, That at ſuch time and times as
ſaid Inhabitants before-mentioned, their Deputy or Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers hereof ſhall come and repair to any of your Churches, Chappels, o
ther places, to aſk and receive the Gratuities and charitable Benevolence of good and charitable Chriſtians, quietly to permit and ſuffer them ſo to do, wi
out any manner of your Lets or Contradictions. And you the ſaid Parſons, Miniſters, Lecturers, Vicars and Curates; for the better ſtirring up of ch
table devotions, deliberately to publiſh and declare the tenour of theſe our Letters Pattents, or the true Copy or Brief hereof unto the people, upon
Lords day next after the ſame ſhall be tendred unto you, exhorting, perſwading, and ſtirring them up to extend their liberal Contributions towards
ſaid pious Work. And you the Church-wardens of every Pariſh, and Collectors for the Poor, where ſuch Collection is to be made as aforeſaid, to
ther with two other honeſt active men, there (nominated by the Miniſter and your ſelves,) are hereby willed and required, to collect and gather the Almes
charitable Benevolence, of the ſaid charitable and well-diſpoſed people, not only Houſholders, but alſo Strangers, Servants and others: And if you fi
it more expedient to an effectual advancement of this pious Work, You are hereby required to go from houſe to houſe in your reſpective Pariſhes upon
week dayes, to gather the Almes of the ſaid good people, ſetting down in the preſence of each particular perſon what his particular gift is. And w
ſhall be by you ſo gathered in the ſaid Pariſhes or Places, the ſame is to be by the Miniſter and your ſelves endorſed on the back-ſide of theſe our Let
Pattents, or the true Copie or Brief hereof, in words at length; Which Endorſement is to be ſubſcribed with the hands of you the ſaid Miniſters, Chur
wardens, and ſuch other in each Pariſh and place as have aſſiſted in ſuch Collection. And alſo to be Regiſtred in the Books of your reſpective Pariſ
And the ſumme and ſummes of money ſo gathered and endorſed, to deliver to the Bearer or Bearers of theſe our Letters Pattents, warranted and allo
to receive the ſame, and to no other perſon or perſons, when as thereunto you ſhall be by them required; whoſe receiving thereof with their Acquitta
or Acquittances, ſhall be your ſufficient diſcharge. And laſtly, for the more Aſſurance of faithful and equal dealing, in the Receipt, Accompt, and
ſtribution of the moneys hereby to be Collected, our will and pleaſure is, That no man ſhall be employed to receive any of the moneys Collected by
tue of theſe our Letters Pattents, but ſuch as ſhall be appointed thereunto by Deputation, under the Hands and Seals of *Richard Walter*, and *Robert W*
ter Gentlemen, or one of them; whom we do by theſe our Letters Pattents, Conſtitute, Nominate, and Appoint, the Treaſurers of all ſuch moneys as
be collected by vertue hereof as aforeſaid; And that the moneyes Collected and Raiſed by vertue of theſe Preſents, ſhall be by the ſaid Treaſurers, o
their Appointment, diſpoſed of to the uſe intended, for the re-building of the ſaid Church. And they the ſaid Treaſurers, in like manner to appoint
whoſe hands the moneys ſo Collected ſhall be kept, until the ſame ſhall be Diſtributed for the ſaid Work, according to the true intent and meaning of
Chriſtian will and pleaſure herein declared, any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or Proviſion heretofore made to the contrary hereof in any wiſe notwithſta
ing. In witneſſe whereof we have cauſed theſe our Letters to be made Pattents, for the ſpace of one whole yeare, next after the date hereof to end
and no longer, Witneſſe our ſelfe at *Weſtminſter*, the eleventh day of *June*, in the yeare of our Lord One thouſand ſix hundred fifty and eight.

Yo are desired to Returne ye mony heerby ſtated
to be Collected to ye Sheriffs office in ye Citty
of Bristoll when upon any Saturday after ye Collection
ye ſame is payable unto it will be required

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